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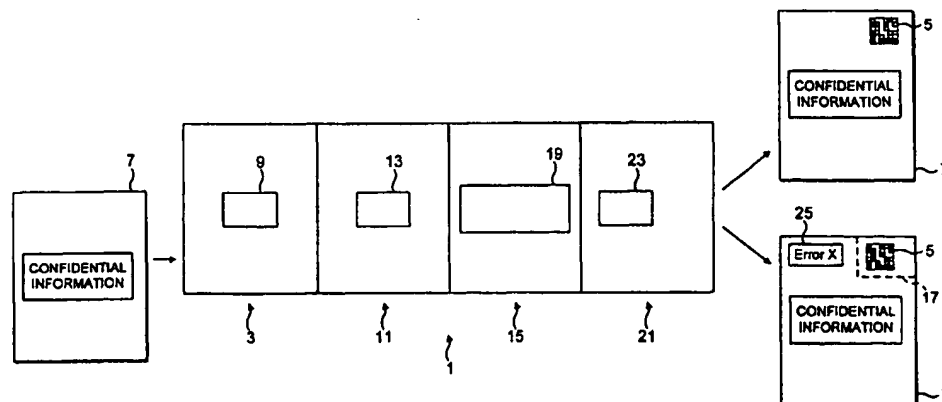
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(54) Title: ITEM HANDLING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An item handling system for and method of handling items in an item stream, the system comprising: a validation unit for validating an element containing an authentication code on each item in an item stream, wherein an item is assigned as being spoiled where the element does not satisfy at least one validation criterion; and a sorting unit for separating spoiled items from the item stream.

WO 2004/029882 A1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 898 153 A (LAGAN THOMAS A ET AL) 27 April 1999 (1999-04-27)	1-7, 48-54, 94,95, 99-104, 106,108
A	column 3, line 44 -column 4, line 5	8-47, 55-93, 96-98, 105,107, 109
	column 5, line 60 -column 6, line 4	
X	GB 2 174 039 A (PITNEY BOWES) 29 October 1986 (1986-10-29) page 2, line 103 -page 3, line 125; figures 2-4	1-10, 48-57

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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